Safe Church Policy and Procedures Concerning Abuse Prevention
Peace United Church of Christ, Webster Groves, Missouri

Proposed Updates
January 27, 2019

The Insurance Board (a nonprofit corporation established by the participating Conferences of the United Church of Christ) regularly updates its safe church policy template for churches. Peace UCC is insured through the Insurance Board (IB).

The People Team worked over the last two years to update Peace’s policy which was last updated in 2014. The recommended updates are taken from the IB’s 2017 template.

The People Team proposed to the Governing Body that the congregation affirms the revisions which include:

- A new section of guidelines for electronic social media usage.
- Adding “vulnerable adults” to those for whom we are responsible. Vulnerable adult is defined as “anyone aged 18 or over, who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age, or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.”
- A section about bullying.
- More thorough background checks; as a service of the IB, we can do these checks through one of its partners at a reduced cost.
  - Registered sex offender review
  - Multistate criminal records search
  - Social security number trace
  - County criminal records search for every county where the applicant has lived or worked for the past seven years
- A new registered sex offender policy section; this is taken directly from the IB’s template.
- Updated guidelines for appropriate affection and verbal interactions.

The Governing Body agreed that the revisions be presented to the congregation for affirmation.